



www.idahoconservation.org

Idaho Conservation League

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Jim Werntz, Idaho Director
Environmental Protection Agency
950 W. Bannock, Suite 900
Boise, ID 83702

July 14, 2016

Via Email: Vitellaro.Chandra@epa.gov and
Kercheval.Stephanie@epa.gov and werntz.james@epa.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act request – 2016 South Fork Clearwater River -
Idaho Suction Dredge Mining – NPDES Coverage Letters

Dear Mr. Wernz and FOIA Officers:

I am requesting documents under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that relate to permitting of small-scale mining operations in Idaho.

I hereby request, pursuant to the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, the following records:

- 1) 2016 NPDES (General Permit for Small Scale Placer Mining a.k.a. suction dredge mining) cover letters sent to the following individuals:
 - Jeff Baraglia
 - Sylvester Thomas Cullen
 - Van Grossnicklaus
 - David Hembree
 - Roberta Hendren
 - Tim Hoskins
 - Shannan Layman
 - Jonathan Ty Martin
 - David Seyer
 - John Stickley
 - Jeff Williams
- 2) Any other NPDES (General Permit) cover letters for Small Scale Placer Mining that may have been issued for the South Fork Clearwater River.

To the extent practicable, we prefer these documents to be released in electronic format, via email or on a CD.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), I seek a fee waiver for the search and production costs associated with this request. Idaho Conservation League is a non-profit organization with no commercial interest in the requested information. Further, disclosure of the information will contribute significantly to public understanding of the NPDES program relative to suction dredge mining in Idaho. The public, and the Idaho Conservation League in particular, has maintained a long-term interest in the protection of water resources in Idaho. Release of the requested information will significantly contribute to the public's understanding of the EPA's actions and efforts to protect and manage public resources. The requested information consists of internal agency documents not previously made available to the general public. Thus, the only means by which the public may obtain such information is through release of the requested documents. I will use the information subject to this request to gain an understanding of the actions of EPA and/or affiliated management entities; and to educate the public about the EPA's actions, findings and recommendations. The Idaho Conservation League has substantial ability to disseminate such information to the public, both through publications such as our quarterly newsletter, and through postings on our Internet website, www.idahoconservation.org. Accordingly, I am entitled to a full fee waiver for this request.

Please feel free to call me to discuss any aspect of this request. As required by the Freedom of Information Act, a response to this request must be made within **20 working days** of your receipt of this letter (5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i)), however because we have attempted to simplify our request, and because discharges are expected to begin occurring tomorrow (July 15, 2016) we respectfully request expedited processing. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Jonathan Oppenheimer
Senior Conservation Associate